MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
GHOST RIDER
AND
TYPHOID MARY
$1.50 US
$1.90 CAN
127
UK £1.00
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALSO:
IRON FIST

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Diary,

Today I purchased MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #123 and I thoroughly enjoyed it, cover to cover. I know this is a bit unusual, diary, because I usually dislike at least one of the stories. This time, however, they were all winners.

My favorite was the one by Ann Nocenti. She's such a great writer, isn't she, diary? She wrote the excellent Wolverine/Typhoid Mary story and had quite an acclaimed run on DAREDEVIL. I think her latest effort is her best, though. I especially enjoyed reading about the feminist discussions. I mean, I totally didn't expect that in a Ghost Rider story! I don't agree with Dan Ketch, though. Men who think they have it rough couldn't last one day as a woman.

I also liked the Wolverine story by that hotshot writer Scott Lobdell. He really knows Wolverine—and he knows how to strike a balance between the man and the beast.

Oh, and diary, I also read a story from a new guy, Scott Kolins. He's one of them writer/artists. He wrote an extremely moving story and he used diary entries as a narrative device. Is that clever, or what?

David Scott
2658 W. Boise #3
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Terry and Mark,

MCP #123 was a good issue. Here's what I thought of it, and why:

Wolverine cover: This was a pretty good effort by Fry and Collazo. The coloring seemed kind of dull, detracting from the finished work. Grade: B+.

Ghost Rider Cover: This was a great cover, by one of the greatest cover artists, Steve Lightle. Ghost Rider's skull seemed to leap off the page at me. Grade: A+.

"Passion Play" Part 1: Do you guys realize this is your 50th multi-part story in MCP? What a way to celebrate, with the introduction of a brand-new character. Is this the story you promised back in MCP #89, which was to introduce a heroine named the Shrew, and would be written by Scott Lobdell? If so, I like the name Lynx much better than Shrew. Grade: A.

"Adrenazon's Revenge" Part 1: Once more, Dave Hoover has produced some top-notch artwork, with a great script by Kelly Corvese to go along with it. I'm glad to see a humorous multi-part story in these pages once again. I think you guys are going a little overboard with Nosferata, though. What's next, Nosferata taking the Nosferatapole down to the Nosferatacave to get a spare Nosferata utility belt?!? Grade: A.

"The Walking Wounded" Part 1: Typhoid's back and there's gonna be trouble! Is that the understatement of the year, or what? The potentially explosive combination of Ghost Rider and Typhoid Mary should lead to some interesting plot twists. Let's just hope Dan Ketch doesn't get burned by Mary (any more than he usually does by Ghost Rider, that is...). Grade: A.

Master Man: So, Master Man has finally passed into the great unknown–the undiscovered country–death. I'm not exactly weeping for the guy, seeing as how he was a Nazi! So, Scott Kolins can write as well as draw. If his stories maintain this level of quality, he certainly has a long career ahead of him. Grade: A.

Overall grade: A.

Also, on the issue of to preview or not to preview, I have no objection to future previews in these pages. But, as the saying goes, all in moderation.

Ben Herman
New Rochelle, NY

Thanks for telling us your opinion, Ben. It means a lot to us. By the way, your theory concerning the Shrew/Lynx controversy is right on the mark!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS GHOST RIDER

Steve Lightle — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — HAPPY COWBOYS FAN
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

GHOST RIDER/ TYPHOID MARY 1
THE WALKING WOUNDED
Part 5 of 8
"SEAL THE DEAL"

Typhoid has killed again, and Ghost Rider is determined to make her pay. Trouble is, the world around him is exploding in a surreal, bloody apocalypse...

Writer — ANN NOCENTI
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer —DAVE SHARPE
Colorist — MARIANNE LIGHTLE

pg.

IRON FIST 9
THE BOOK OF CHANGES
Part 3 of 6
"THE SUPERIOR MAN"

Previously, the Rand-Meachum Research Facility was infiltrated by the stealthy Skeleton Ki, and, soon after, attacked by A.I.M.. Both were after the same prize–the Anomaly. Now, with both his life and company in shambles, Daniel Rand–Iron Fist–trusts nobody...

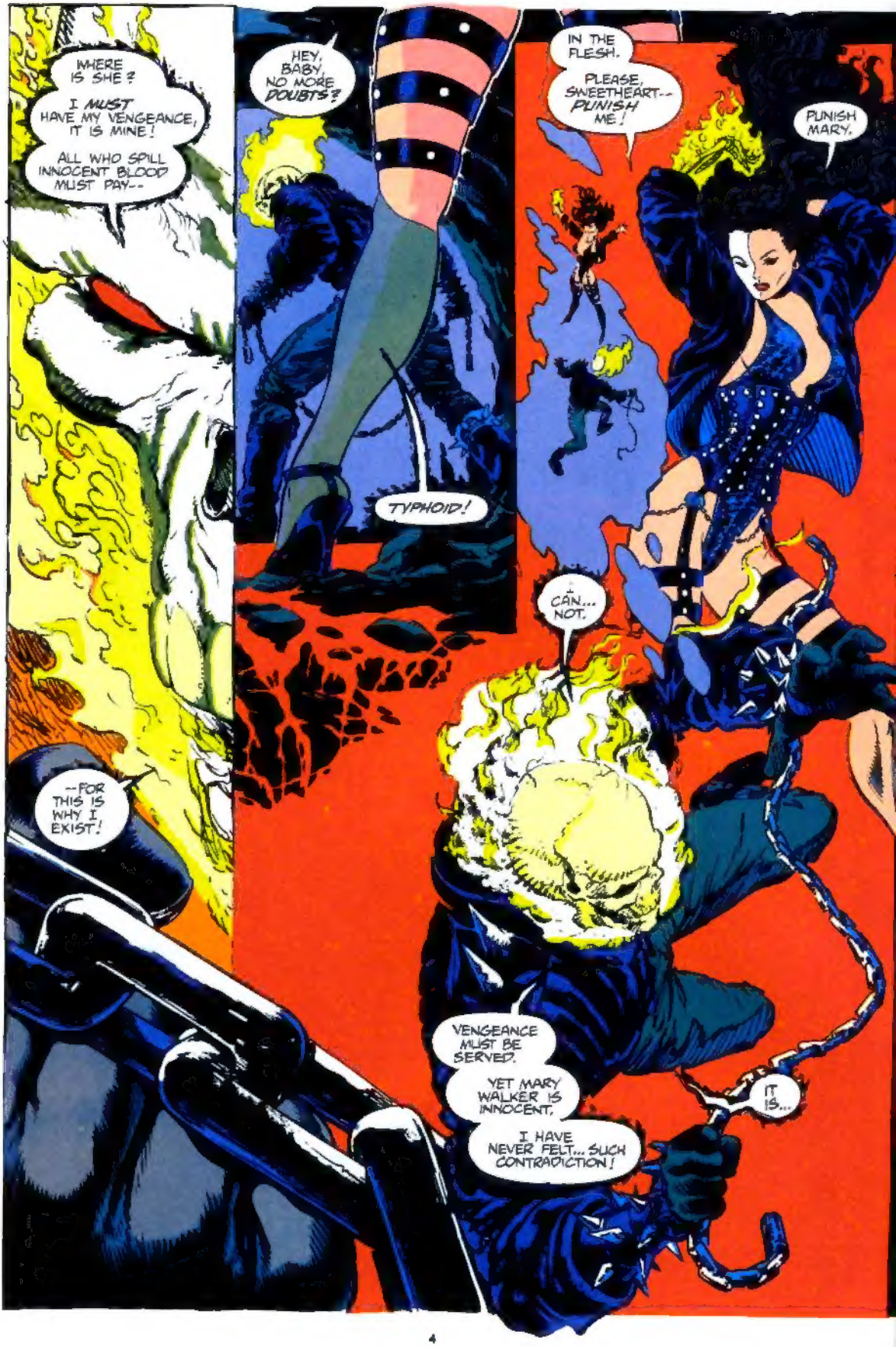
Writer —JOEY CAVALIERI
Penciler — DAVE HOOVER
Inker—JEFF ALBRECHT
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

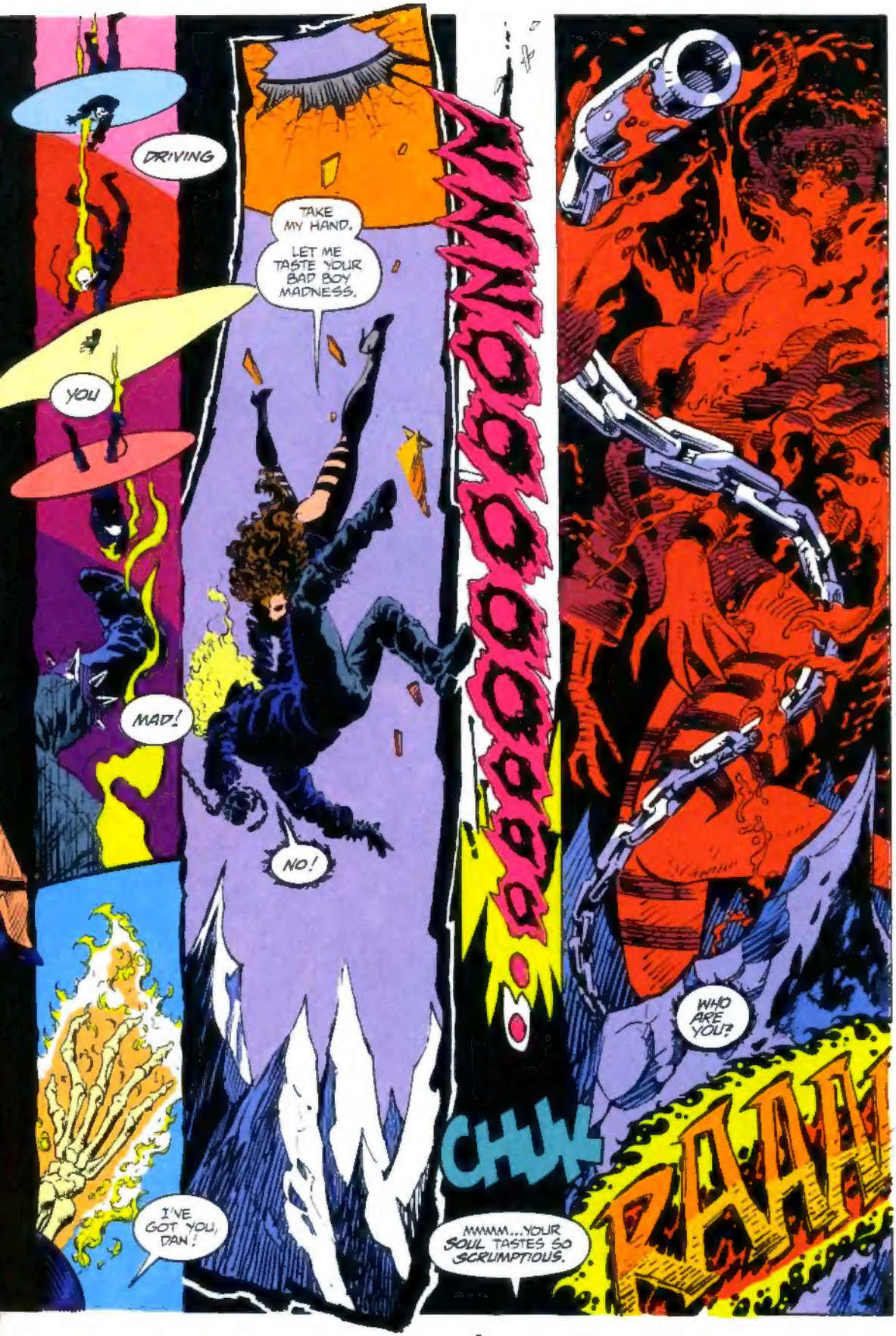
NEXT ISSUE: THE HUNT IS ON FOR WOLVERINE AND THE LYNX! GHOST RIDER VS. DUSK! IRON FIST IS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSHAIRS OF WARRANT! PLUS, AN ALL-NEW AMERICAN EAGLE FEATURE!

"FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS..." --EPHESIANS 6:12
TYPHOID, YOU ARE A SICKNESS-- AND YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR SINS!
THOUGH IT VIOLATES MY CREED, AND THIS WORLD IS BURNING AROUND US, YOU WILL FEEL MY WRATH!
THEY TOLD ME THERE WOULD BE FIRE... AND DEMONS...
...AND BLOOD.
OH, MY BURNING, FLAMING MAN--
--YOU'RE HOT AND SEXY, BUT I MUST TELL YOU--
--I'VE BEEN IN HOTTER SPOTS THAN THIS!
IS ANY OF THIS REAL?
MY LORD, GIVE ME A SIGN!
GIVE ME THE VISION, OH LORD, TO SEE THROUGH THE LIES!
THE WALKING WOUNDED pt. 5
STARRING
GHOST RIDER & TYPHOID MARY
SEAL THE VEAL

MMMM, I LIKE YOUR TOUCH--
--TIGHT, JUST ON THE EDGE OF PAIN...
MOVE CHAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU SEE? YOU'RE NO HERO COME TO THE RESCUE.
YOU'RE A SICK, SICK, TERRIBLY BAD BOY.
YOUR PENANCE STARE HURTS, IT'S CRUEL AND MEAN.
BAD BOY. SICK BOY
AND I WILL STAND THE TIDE OF DARKNESS...
...PLEASE LORD, GIVE ME THE STRENGTH.
SHE MAY HAVE SINNED, BUT I MUST REACH HER!
THE VOICE INSIDE ME TELLS ME TO SAVE HER!
...THOUGH I DROWN AND I AM ALONE, I REPEL YOU RULERS OF THE DARK...
... LORD LIFT MY STEP, CLEAR MY VISION, HOLD HIGH MY HEART...
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT INSIDE THAT CREATURE ;GASP; THERE IS ;HUFF;--

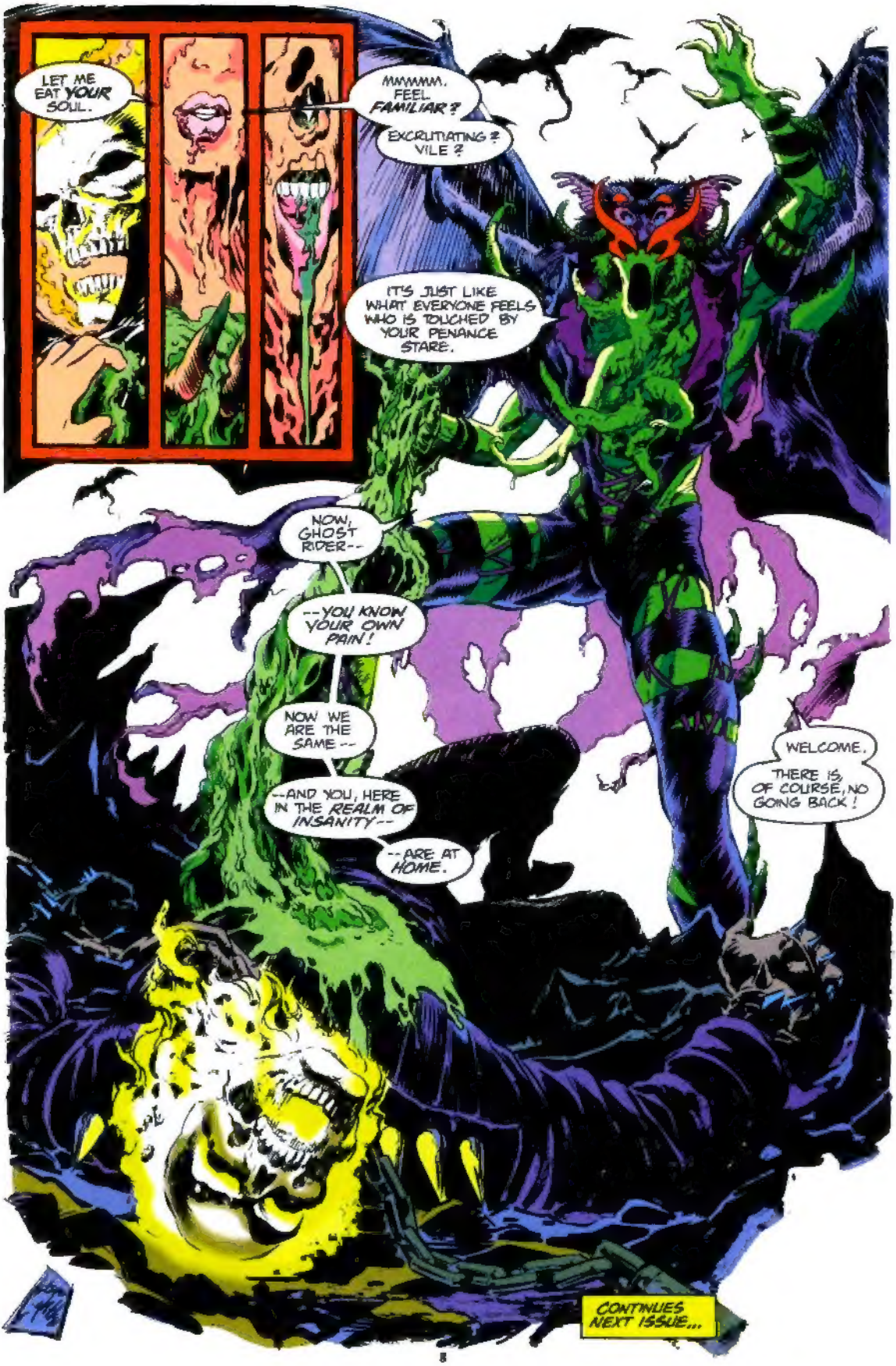
TELEKINESIS! AND FIRE!
NO!!
MMMM, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
INNOCENCE, MMMMM... A HOLY MAN...
...BY ALL MEANS, YES--
--AN INNOCENT GIRL!
LET ME HELP YOU!
--SAVE ME--
OH! OH!
IN THE NAME OF GOD, HELP ME!
--FATHER!


WHERE IS SHE?
I MUST HAVE MY VENGEANCE, IT IS MINE!
ALL WHO SPILL INNOCENT BLOOD MUST PAY--
--FOR THIS IS WHY I EXIST!
HEY, BABY, NO MORE DOUBTS?
TYPHOID!
IN THE FLESH.
PLEASE, SWEETHEART-- PUNISH ME!
PUNISH MARY.
CAN... NOT.
VENGEANCE MUST BE SERVED.
YET MARY WALKER IS INNOCENT.
I HAVE NEVER FELT... SUCH CONTRADICTION!
IT IS...


DRIVING
YOU
MAD!
I'VE GOT YOU, DAN!
TAKE MY HAND.
LET ME TASTE YOUR BAD BOY MADNESS.
NO!
NNOOOOOOOO!!
CHUK
MMMM...YOUR SOUL TASTES SO SCRUMPTIOUS.
WHO ARE YOU?
RAAH

WHAT IS HAPPENING?
AT LAST YOU HAVE CROSSED THE THIN LINE!
--YOU ARE WITHIN MADNESS!
WELCOME. I AM GLAD YOU RECOGNIZE ME, FOR YOU ARE LIKE ME.
YOU HAVE RID YOURSELF OF YOUR HUMAN FLESH...
DUSK.
IT IS COMPLETE!
...YOU ARE BEYOND THE DELUSIONS OF SANITY--
BAH! I RECOGNIZE MADNESS, BUT I AM NOTHING LIKE YOU!
YOU SHAPE-SHIFT TO MANY YOU ARE NOT!
DON'T RESIST US!
MEN WITH MISSIONS MAY BE TOUCHED BY MADNESS, THEY MAY KNOW YOUR REALM--
--BUT THEY STAND OUTSIDE IT!
THE BEST OF THEM HAVE KNOWN ME!
LOOK-- WE ALL KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN'--
--TO DAN KETCH.
KILLIN' HIM. USIN' HIM, SACRIFICING HIM. WHEN YOU DONE USIN' UP DAN'S FLESH HOST WHO'S NEXT?
NO! I DEFY YOUR LIES--MY MISSION IS YET RIGHTEOUS!

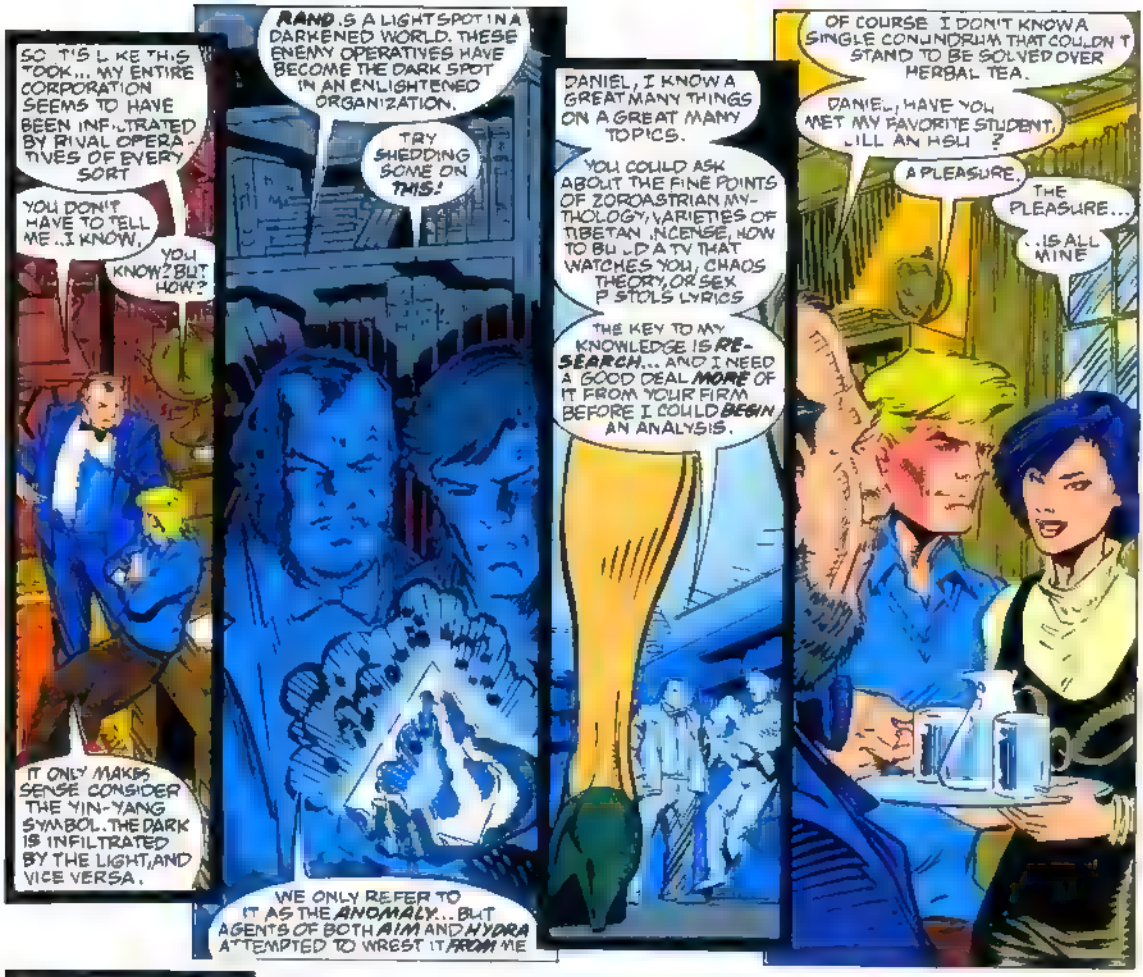
DUSK COMES WITH THE TURF, YA KNOW?
YA THINK ALL THAT FLAMIN' FIGHTIN' YOU BEEN DOIN' WAS SANE?
YEAH? LISTEN, BUB.
ANY JERK CALLIN' THEMSELVES A HERO IS A MADMAN
YA GET IT NOW?
GIVE UP, HERO, YOU'RE MINE!
MINE MINE MINE!
YEAH? I SEEN RIGHTEOUS SCUM LIKE YOU, THINK YOU'RE ABOVE THE REST OF US.
BLOOD IS ALWAYS INNOCENT, NO MATTER HOW RED IT SPILLS!
YUM YUM YUM!
THINK YOU'RE ABOVE THE LAWS OF EARTH, BUT NOW YOU SEE THERE ARE OTHER REALMS, OTHER LAWS!
I WILL HAVE JUSTICE.
ONLY OVER MARY WALKER'S VIOLATED SOUL!
NO! THERE IS BLOOD SPILLED, THERE IS PENANCE...
...AND JUSTICE...


LET ME EAT YOUR SOUL.
MMMMM. FEEL FAMILIAR? EXCRUTIATING? VILE?
IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT EVERYONE FEELS WHO IS TOUCHED BY YOUR PENANCE STARE.
NOW, GHOST RIDER--
--YOU KNOW YOUR OWN PAIN!
NOW WE ARE THE SAME--
--AND YOU, HERE IN THE REALM OF INSANITY--
--ARE AT HOME.
WELCOME.
THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO GOING BACK!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

I KNEW I WANTED TO LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND...
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D END UP COMING THIS FAR TO DO IT.
STILL, NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU GO, YOUR PAST CATCHES UP WITH YOU
I SPENT PLENTY OF TIME ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY WITH LUKE CAGE...
THE SUPERIOR MAN
THE BOOK OF CHANGES Pt 3
STARRING
IRON FIST
BUT I'VE GOT ONE MORE FRIEND--MAYBE MY ONLY FRIEND--
--WHO'S HERE AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY
BACK IN THE BAD OLD DAYS, HE WORKED FOR ME AT RAND.
BUT HE SAW THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL FIRST AND CAME HERE TO TEACH.
I CAN PRACTICALLY HEAR HIS SONOROUS LECTURE VOICE NOW...
"THE BOOK OF CHANGES PLOTS A COURSE FOR THE SUPERIOR MAN."

IT RECOGNIZES THE WORLD AS A PLACE OF GREAT BEAUTY... BUT ALSO GREAT TREACHERY.
FURTHER, IT REMINDS US THAT BOTH THESE QUALITIES EXIST WITHIN OUR SELVES.
EACH CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER...
THE LIGHT AND THE DARK...
THE NOBLE AND THE NEEDY...
THE LOYAL AND THE TREACHEROUS...
"...THE YIN AND THE YANG
"NOT ONLY CAN ONE NOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER...
"...BUT EACH CONTAINS THE QUALITIES OF ITS OPPOSITE.
ZZZZZZZ

"TOO OFTEN IN WESTERN SOCIETY WE ENGAGE IN THE DENIAL OF THE DARKER SIDE OF OUR BEINGS
"OH NO, NOT ME, WE SAY 'I'M A GOOD PERSON'
SURELY, THESE DARK DEMONS DO NOT RESIDE WITHIN ME
"HOW MUCH BETTER TO RECOGNIZE THEM NOW, INSTEAD OF DISCOVERING THE TRUTH WHEN IT IS FAR TOO LATE."
AH, MR. LANDSFIELD..
...I TRUST YOU'VE EXPERIENCED A REVELATION.
HA HA HA
STILL MESSING WITH THEIR MINDS, EH TOOK?
WHO IS IT THAT STILL KNOWS ME BY THAT UNFORTUNATE SIXTIES APPELATION OF PEREGRIN TOOK?
CAN THAT REALLY BE DANIEL RAND?
IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO NO LONGER NEEDS A LECTURE FROM ME, IT'S YOU.
DON'T BE SO SURE.


SO IT'S LIKE THIS TOOK... MY ENTIRE CORPORATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED BY RIVAL OPERATIVES OF EVERY SORT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME..I KNOW.
YOU KNOW? BUT HOW?
IT ONLY MAKES SENSE CONSIDER THE YIN-YANG SYMBOL. THE DARK IS INFILTRATED BY THE LIGHT, AND VICE VERSA.
RAND IS A LIGHT SPOT IN A DARKENED WORLD. THESE ENEMY OPERATIVES HAVE BECOME THE DARK SPOT IN AN ENLIGHTENED ORGANIZATION.
TRY SHEDDING SOME ON THIS!
WE ONLY REFER TO IT AS THE ANOMALY.. BUT AGENTS OF BOTH AIM AND HYDRA ATTEMPTED TO WREST IT FROM ME
DANIEL, I KNOW A GREAT MANY THINGS ON A GREAT MANY TOPICS.
YOU COULD ASK ABOUT THE FINE POINTS OF ZOROASTRIAN MYTHOLOGY, VARIETIES OF TIBETAN INCENSE, HOW TO BUILD A TV THAT WATCHES YOU, CHAOS THEORY, OR SEX PISTOLS LYRICS
THE KEY TO MY KNOWLEDGE IS RESEARCH... AND I NEED A GOOD DEAL MORE OF IT FROM YOUR FIRM BEFORE I COULD BEGIN AN ANALYSIS.
OF COURSE I DON'T KNOW A SINGLE CONUNDRUM THAT COULDN'T STAND TO BE SOLVED OVER HERBAL TEA.
DANIEL, HAVE YOU MET MY FAVORITE STUDENT, JILL AN HSU ?
A PLEASURE.
THE PLEASURE... IS ALL MINE
DANIEL, YOU MAY REGARD RECENT EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE AS TREACHERY, BUT I SEE THEM AS AN OPPORTUNITY.
YOU DON'T BELONG IN THE CORPORATE WORLD. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DIVESTED YOURSELF OF THIS FIRM THAT'S SPIRALLED OUT OF YOUR CONTROL.
WHAT IS YOUR QUEST? TO STAY IN WHO'S WHO... OR THE FORTUNE 500?
YOUR PATH HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BECOME WHAT THE I CHING CALLS "CHUN-TZU" OR... THE SUPERIOR MAN.
THIS PATH IS A SOLITARY ONE. IT CAN'T BE TROD IF YOU DON'T FREE YOURSELF OF YOUR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES!
GO AWAY AS FAR AS YOU CAN, DANIEL
EMBARK ON YOUR QUEST ANEW.

CAN I OFFER YOU A LIFT SOMEPLACE?
I WAS ON MY WAY HOME..
..BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO DETRACT YOU FROM YOUR QUEST AND BURDEN YOU WITH NEW RESPONSIBILITIES..
..TOOK WOULDN'T LIKE IT
THIS IS THE GUY THEY SENT ME AFTER?
HE DOESN'T LOOK SO TOUGH!

IN FACT I DON'T SEE WHY--
--AIM SCREWED UP...
...AND SENT ME AFTER HIM!
RAND!
I WANT THE ANOMALY... AND I WON'T ASK AGAIN.
WHO'S ASKING?
I'M WARRANT... THE LAST GUY YOU'LL EVER SEE.
AS IN "SEARCH WARRANT"?
AS IN "DEATH WARRANT"!

YOU GOT FAIR WARNING!
HAVE TO SWERVE TO DODGE THE BLAST... BUT IF I DON'T SLOW DOWN--
--THE FALL COULD CRIPPLE LILLIAN!
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL, RAND...
...YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME.
EVASIVE MANEUVERS DON'T WORK
HE'S GAINING--
--CLOSING THE GAP!
I WON'T MISS THIS TIME!

KRKRASH
GOT TO GET--
--MY MASK TO--
--KEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD--
--FROM KNOWING DANIEL RAND IS IRON FIST...
...THAT IS ASSUMING I CAN KEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN ONE PIECE.
I'M GONNA FIRE ONE MORE TIME... BUT I DON'T WANNA WASTE ANY MORE AMMO, MR. OLD-FASHIONED KUNG-FU.
TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF MY EYE, I BOUGHT ANOTHER ONE... FROM THE TINKERER.
THE EVIL EYE FREEZES WHOEVER I WILL IT TO HOLD IN IT'S GAZE.
HE'S RIGHT! CAN'T MOVE!
I'M A SITTING DUCK!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

TM & © 1993 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.50 US
$1.90 CAN
127
UK £1.00

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

ALSO:

SPEEDBALL

FRY / IVY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

James Fry/Hector Collazo — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ LYNX 1

PASSION PLAY
Part 5 of 8
"BROOKLYN BRIDGE"

Wolverine, Black Widow, Courier, and Le Peregrine routed Champion and his force of mercenaries, and freed the Lynx from his grasp. But was she liberated only to be taken captive by another interested party—S.H.I.E.L.D.?

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler— DENNIS JENSEN
Inker —JON HOLDREDGE
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

SPEEDBALL 9

"THE BIG TIME"

When Robbie Baldwin gained kinetic energy powers in a freak laboratory accident, he was transformed into Speedball, the Masked Marvel! But are those powers enough to help him survive when he battles a big-time super-villain like Doctor Octopus without the New Warriors?

Writer — DANNY FINGEROTH
Penciler — DON PERLIN
Inker—RODNEY RAMOS
Letterer — JOHN MORELLI
Colorist — MIKE THOMAS

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 127 1993 (ISSN #1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published biweekly.

Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $1.90 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $18.00; foreign $30.00; and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. WOLVERINE and GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #123, beginning three new tales, was a well-done issue...

1) Wolverine/Lynx: On the whole, this story looks quite promising. And, even though I like Scott Lobdell's writing, the most impressive part of this segment was the artwork. In a style that's miles away from Sam Kieth, Steve Lightle or Mark Texiera, Dennis Jensen did a great job drawing Wolverine. His style is perfect—and Jon Holdredge and Kelly Corvese only helped. Not only was I extremely pleased with that artwork, but Scott Lobdell's story looks promising as well... Overall grade: A+.

2) She-Hulk: While this story most certainly had its merit, this wasn't the most flattering picture of my favorite Marvel heroine. Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella's artwork was excellent, though. Kelly Corvese's story seems interesting, albeit a tad weak. And, might I point out—it's Louise Mason, not Louise Grant. That aside, I look forward to the second part of this tale. Overall grade: A-.

3) Ghost Rider: Looks like another winner from the Nocenti/ Lightle factory, eh? While this premier chapter did little more than pique my interests, I know that some interesting work will be ahead of us. Ann Nocenti's script was intriguing—written in the same mature horror vein as "Typhoid's Kiss." Steve Lightle's art, as always, was unsettling and unique. I can't wait for part two. Overall grade: A.

4) Master Man: An intriguing, if different, tale from writer/artist Scott Kolins. Master Man's tale was engaging in it's own ways. It also had some great artwork, as well as a relatively strong story. This was, by no means, another weak one-shot—but an interesting and strange one. I wouldn't mind seeing more work from Kolins in this title. Overall grade: B+.

Wolverine Cover: Impressive, guys. A.

Ghost Rider: Amazing. A+.

Composite? How does an high "A" sound to you?

Mr. Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083

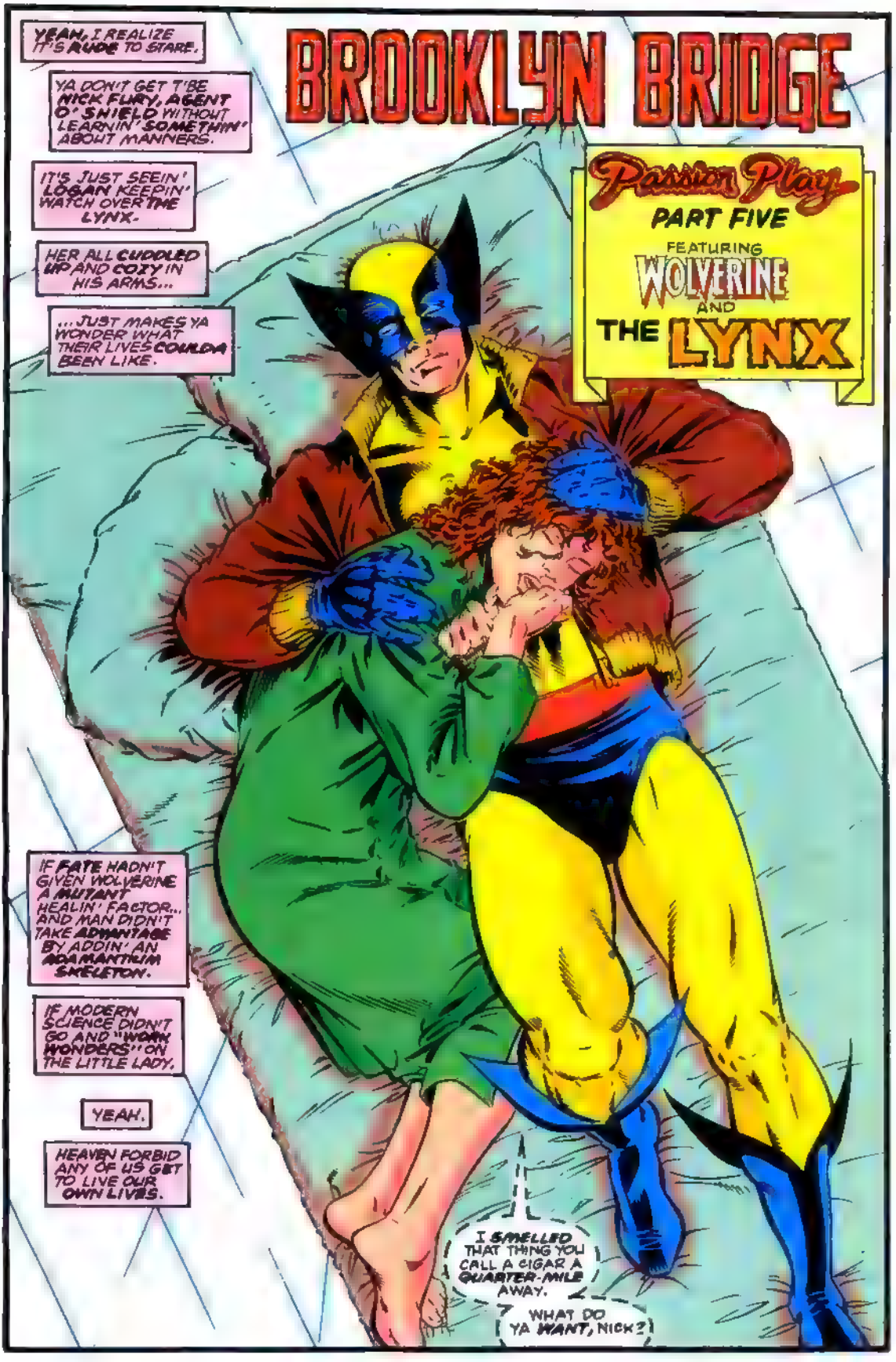
You're right, Joey, we erred. It should be Louise Mason in the She-Hulk story. You see, Kelly got a little confused because Louise Mason sounds somewhat like Tina Louise, who played Ginger Grant on Kelly's second favorite TV show, Gilligan's Island—and we just got caught up in the Grant-mania! It could have happened to anyone, right?!?

Dear Terry, Mark and co.,

I'm writing in response to your request for letters regarding previews in the pages of MCP. I think this is a wonderful idea. I have enjoyed the previews you have run in previous issues (as well as most of the other stories you've run), but I would suggest that, if possible, future previews be original work, and not just the first eight pages of the upcoming issue.

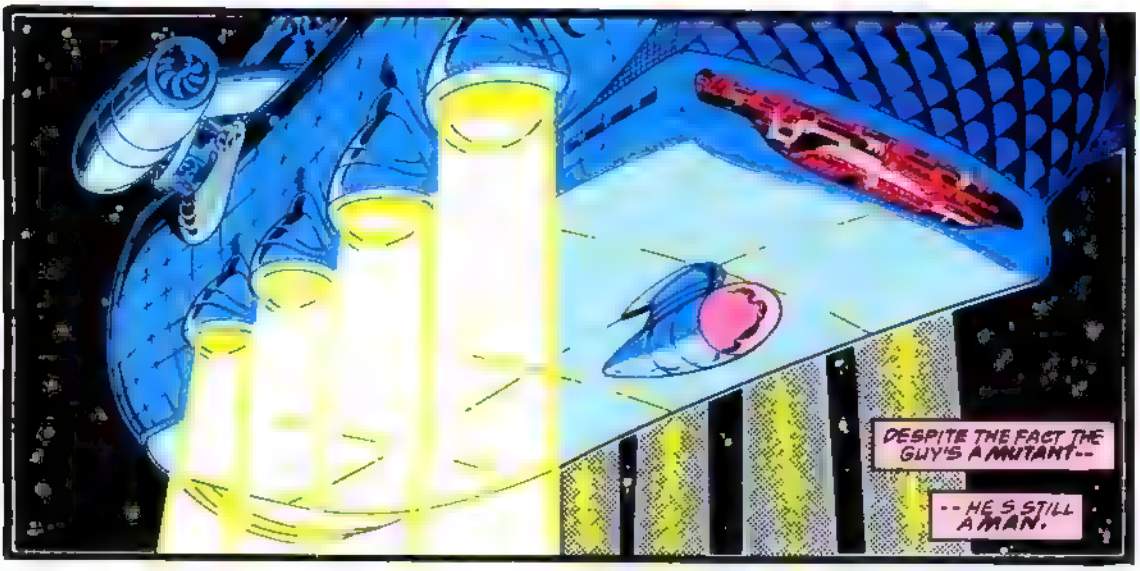
Todd Shkolnick
1127 Kingston
Columbus, OH 43209

That's a fair suggestion, Todd. Thanks for writing. But, we still haven't really heard from too many people on this issue, so we'll make the plea again: Tell us what you think of us having previews of new characters in the pages of MCP!!! Well, don't just sit there... write!


BROOKLYN BRIDGE
Passion Play
PART FIVE
FEATURING
WOLVERINE
AND
THE LYNX
YEAH, I REALIZE IT'S RUDE TO STARE.
YA DON'T GET T'BE NICK FURY, AGENT O' SHIELD WITHOUT LEARNIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT MANNERS.
IT'S JUST SEEIN' LOGAN KEEPIN' WATCH OVER THE LYNX-
HER ALL CUDDLED UP AND COZY IN HIS ARMS...
...JUST MAKES YA WONDER WHAT THEIR LIVES COULDA BEEN LIKE.
IF FATE HADN'T GIVEN WOLVERINE A MUTANT HEALIN' FACTOR... AND MAN DIDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE BY ADDIN' AN ADAMANTIUM SKELETON.
IF MODERN SCIENCE DIDN'T GO AND "WORK WONDERS" ON THE LITTLE LADY.
YEAH.
HEAVEN FORBID ANY OF US GET TO LIVE OUR OWN LIVES.
I SMELLED THAT THING YOU CALL A CIGAR A QUARTER-MILE AWAY.
WHAT DO YA WANT, NICK?

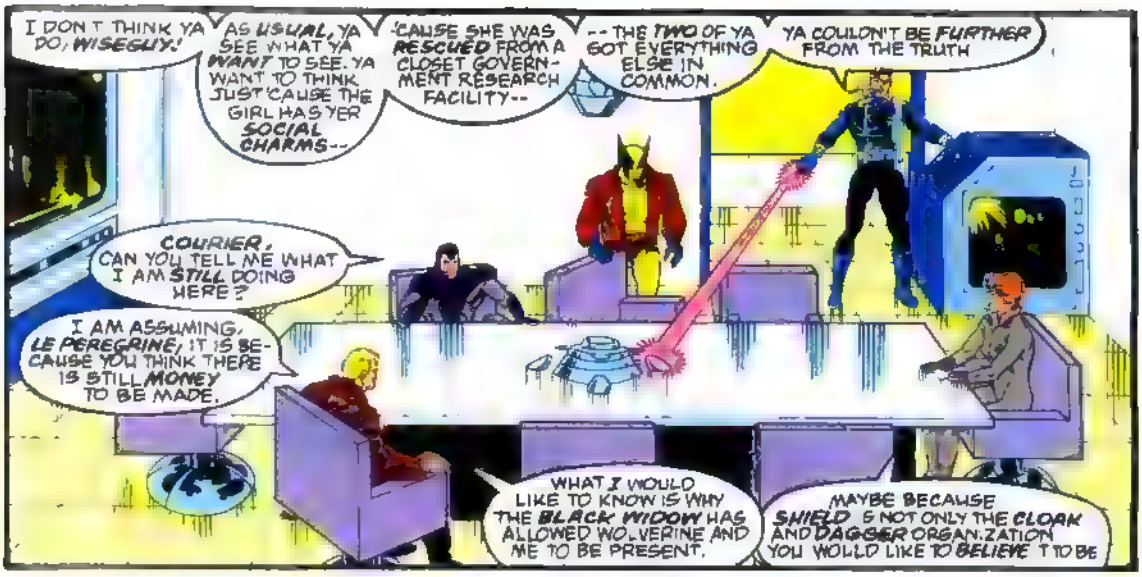
INTEL'S SENT UP--
SHHHHH.
INTEL'S SENT UP THE DOSSIER-- I THOUGHT YA'D BE INTERESTED IN THE BRIEFING.
YA THOUGHT RIGHT.

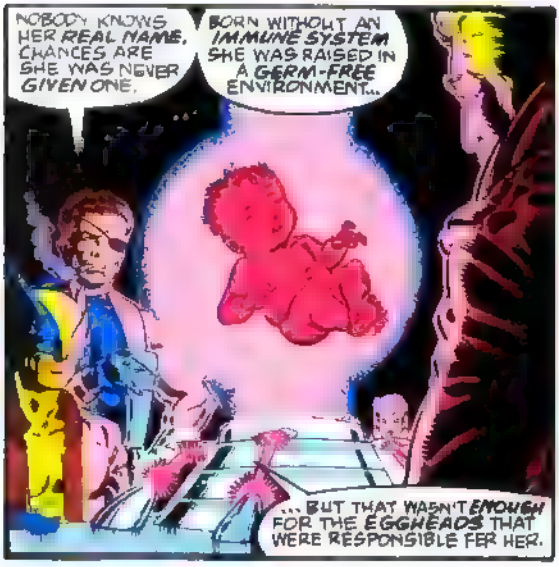
REST EASY, GIRL.
I'LL BE BACK WITH SOME ANSWERS...
...IF I HAVETA CLAW 'EM OUT OF THE COMPUTERS MYSELF.
DON'T THINK I EVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS.
GUESS IT SHOULD BE EXPECTED--
--AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS LADY FRIEND, MARIKO...
...AND HIS SPYIN' BUDDY SILVER FOX.


DESPITE THE FACT THE GUY'S A MUTANT--
--HE'S STILL A MAN.

LOCKIN' HER UP, FURY?
IT'S FER HER OWN SAFETY, WOLVERINE.
LYNX IS SCARED, CONFUSED, DISORIENTED.

SHE GOES WANDERIN' ABOUT THE SHIELD HELICARRIER...
SHE MIGHT GET A TASTE OF FREEDOM?
I SEE YER POINT.


I DON'T THINK YA DO, WISEGUY!
AS USUAL, YA SEE WHAT YA WANT TO SEE. YA WANT TO THINK JUST 'CAUSE THE GIRL HAS YER SOCIAL CHARMS--
'CAUSE SHE WAS RESCUED FROM A CLOSET GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FACILITY--
--THE TWO OF YA GOT EVERYTHING ELSE IN COMMON.
YA COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH
COURIER. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT I AM STILL DOING HERE?
I AM ASSUMING, LE PEREGRINE, IT IS BECAUSE YOU THINK THERE IS STILL MONEY TO BE MADE.
WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IS WHY THE BLACK WIDOW HAS ALLOWED WOLVERINE AND ME TO BE PRESENT.
MAYBE BECAUSE SHIELD IS NOT ONLY THE CLOAK AND DAGGER ORGANIZATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE IT TO BE


NOBODY KNOWS HER REAL NAME. CHANCES ARE SHE WAS NEVER GIVEN ONE.
BORN WITHOUT AN IMMUNE SYSTEM SHE WAS RAISED IN A GERM-FREE ENVIRONMENT...
...BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR THE EGGHEADS THAT WERE RESPONSIBLE FER HER.

THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE WAS KEPT FROM ANY HUMAN CONTACT WHATSOEVER.
EVER.
HERE'S A GLIMPSE O' THE RESULTS.

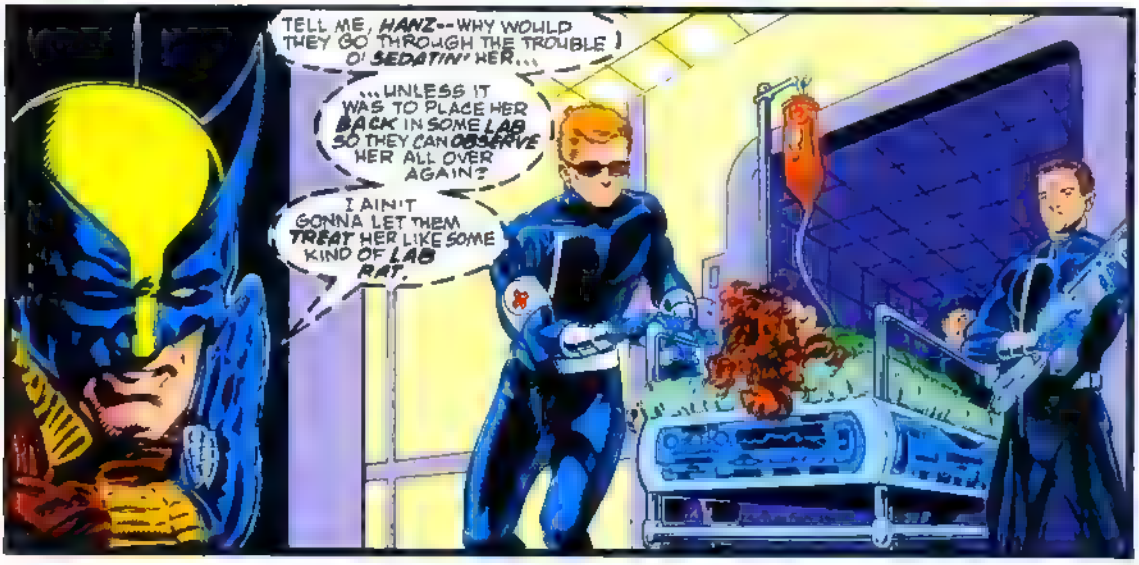
THREE WEEKS AGO, DR. REGERT ILVES OF BERLIN, DECIDED HE'D FOUND THE PERFECT SUBJECT FOR HIS PANACEA DRUG
...A SERUM CAPABLE OF CURING EVERY DISEASE KNOWN TO MAN.
AND MORE'N A HANDFUL OF THOSE THAT AREN'T.
BUT WHO WAS FUNDING ILVES, IF IT WASN'T CHAMPION?

THAT'S WHAT WE INTEND TO FIND OUT. UNFORTUNATELY THE ONLY PERSON WE KNOW WHO MIGHT KNOW THE ANSWER--
--DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE HOW TO SPEAK HUMAN...
...LET ALONE POINT TO THE GUILTY PARTIES.
OUR ONLY HOPE--IS NO HOPE AT ALL.

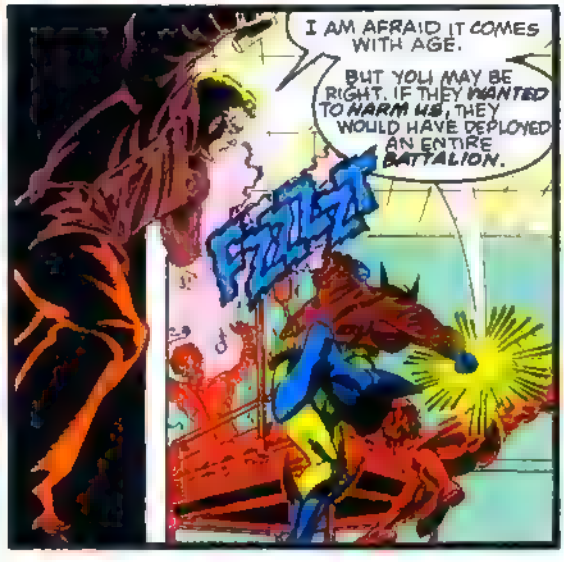
FROM HERE ON IN THIS'S A SHIELD MATTER. WE APPRECIATE YER HELP AND I'LL TRY TO KEEP YA POSTED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
BUT THIS DOES NOT EXPLAIN--
YER A GUEST IN THIS COUNTRY, COURIER ..AND YER OWN PEOPLE HAVE JUST UNINVITED YA. THEY WANT YA BACK ON THE NEXT PLANE TO GERMANY.
I AM A FREELANCE OPERATIVE, COLONEL. THAT MEANS I COME AND GO AS I PLEASE.
FINE. DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YA' ON THE WAY OUT.
I WILL ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORT, GENTLEMEN.
I REFUSE TO--
TO TURN DOWN AN OFFER LIKE THAT. THANKS 'TASHA!
THAT WAS A COLOSSAL WASTE OF TIME.
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE ROAD, MON AMI?
COUNT ON IT AND PEREGRINE.
OUI?
--FOR A MONEY-GRUBBIN' MERCENARY, YOU'RE GOOD PEOPLE.
YOU REALIZE THERE ARE TOO MANY QUESTIONS LEFT UNANSWERED IN THIS READERS' DIGEST VERSION.
IF SHIELD HAD ALL THIS INFORMATION, HOW DID A PRIVATE CITIZEN LIKE IMUS CHAMPION GET HOLD OF LYNX FIRST?
WHY WOULD ILVES CONDUCT THE EXPERIMENT ON THE GIRL--THEN TURN ABOUT AND TRY TO KILL HER?
GRANTED, WE AGREED TO LET SHIELD ARBITRATE THIS MATTER--
BUT WE DIDN'T AGREE TO BE SUCKERED.

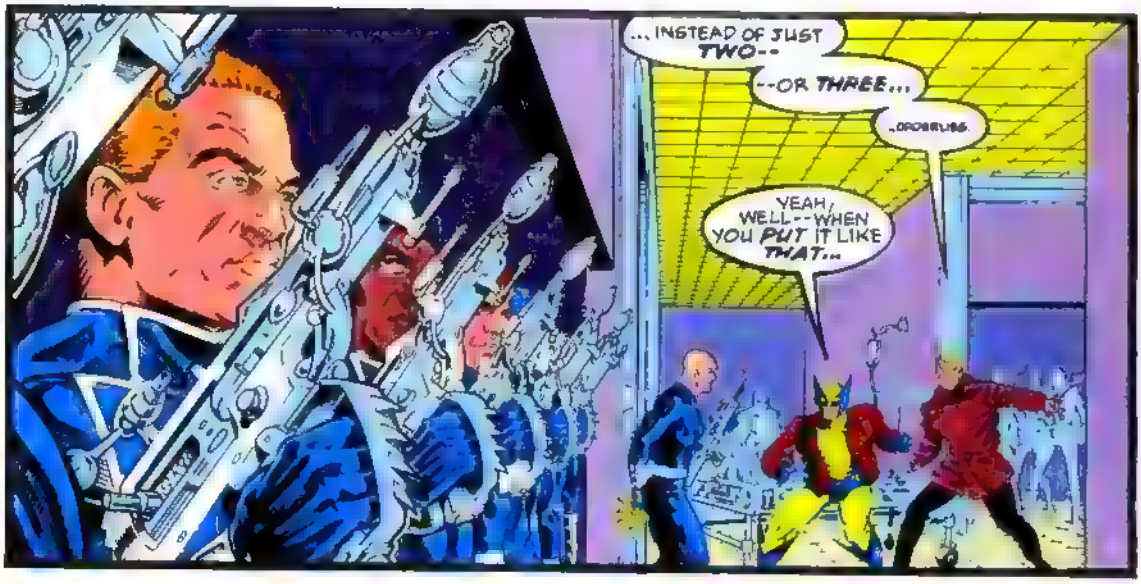
WHEN I GET BACK, I AM GOING TO FILE A GRIEVANCE REPORT AGAINST--
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO THE DOCKING BAY
NO, IT'S NOT.
FACT, JUDGIN' FROM THE CONDITION OF OUR "FRIENDS" HERE--

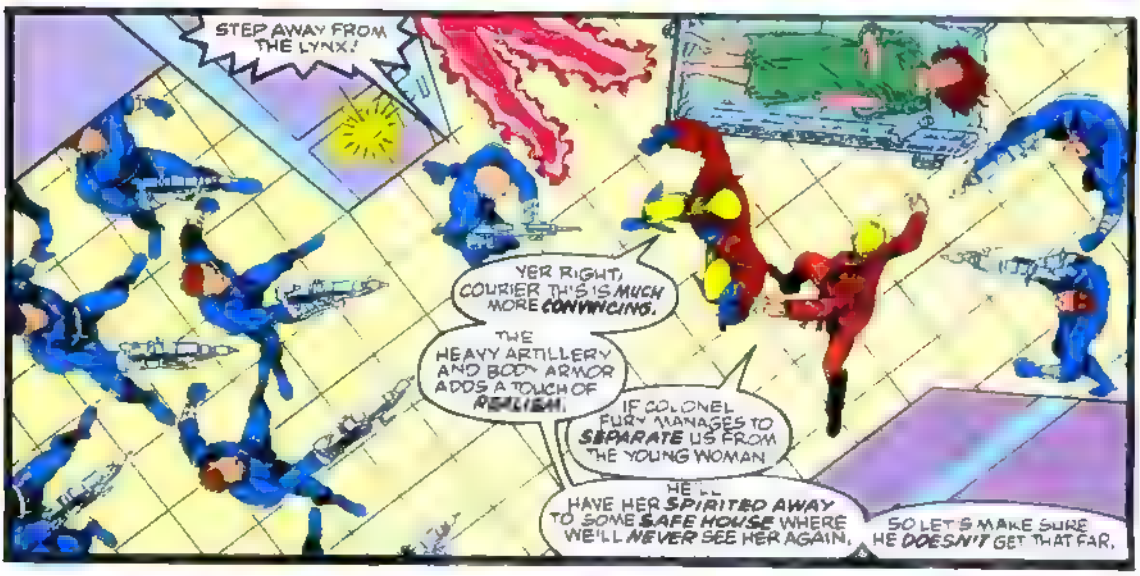
--I'M BETTIN NOBODY'S WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED T'BE.
THE LYNX...?

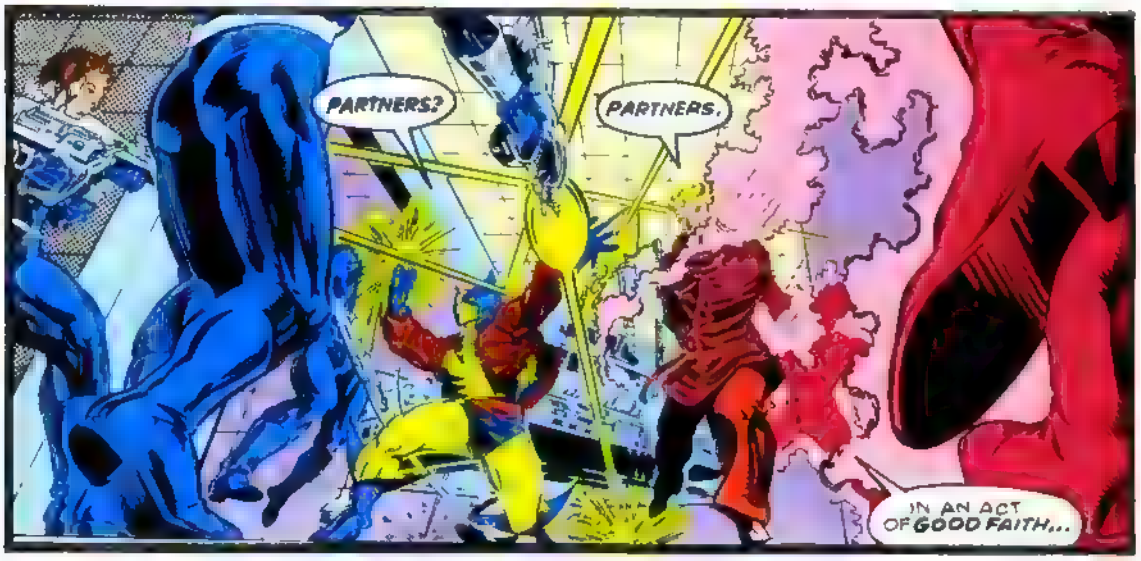

TELL ME, HANZ--WHY WOULD THEY GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE O' SEDATIN' HER...
...UNLESS IT WAS TO PLACE HER BACK IN SOME LAB SO THEY CAN OBSERVE HER ALL OVER AGAIN?
I AIN'T GONNA LET THEM TREAT HER LIKE SOME KIND OF LAB RAT.

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THIS IS ALL TOO EASY?
WE ARE ALL BEING SET-UP.
DON'T BE SO CYNICAL, COURIER


I AM AFRAID IT COMES WITH AGE.
BUT YOU MAY BE RIGHT. IF THEY WANTED TO HARM US, THEY WOULD HAVE DEPLOYED AN ENTIRE BATTALION.
FZZLZT


...INSTEAD OF JUST TWO--
--OR THREE...
...OR EVEN SIX.
YEAH, WELL--WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...


STEP AWAY FROM THE LYNX!
YER RIGHT, COURIER TH'S IS MUCH MORE CONVINCING.
THE HEAVY ARTILLERY AND BODY ARMOR ADDS A TOUCH OF REALISM.
IF COLONEL FURY MANAGES TO SEPARATE US FROM THE YOUNG WOMAN
HE'LL HAVE HER SPIRITED AWAY TO SOME SAFE HOUSE WHERE WE'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.
SO LET'S MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET THAT FAR.

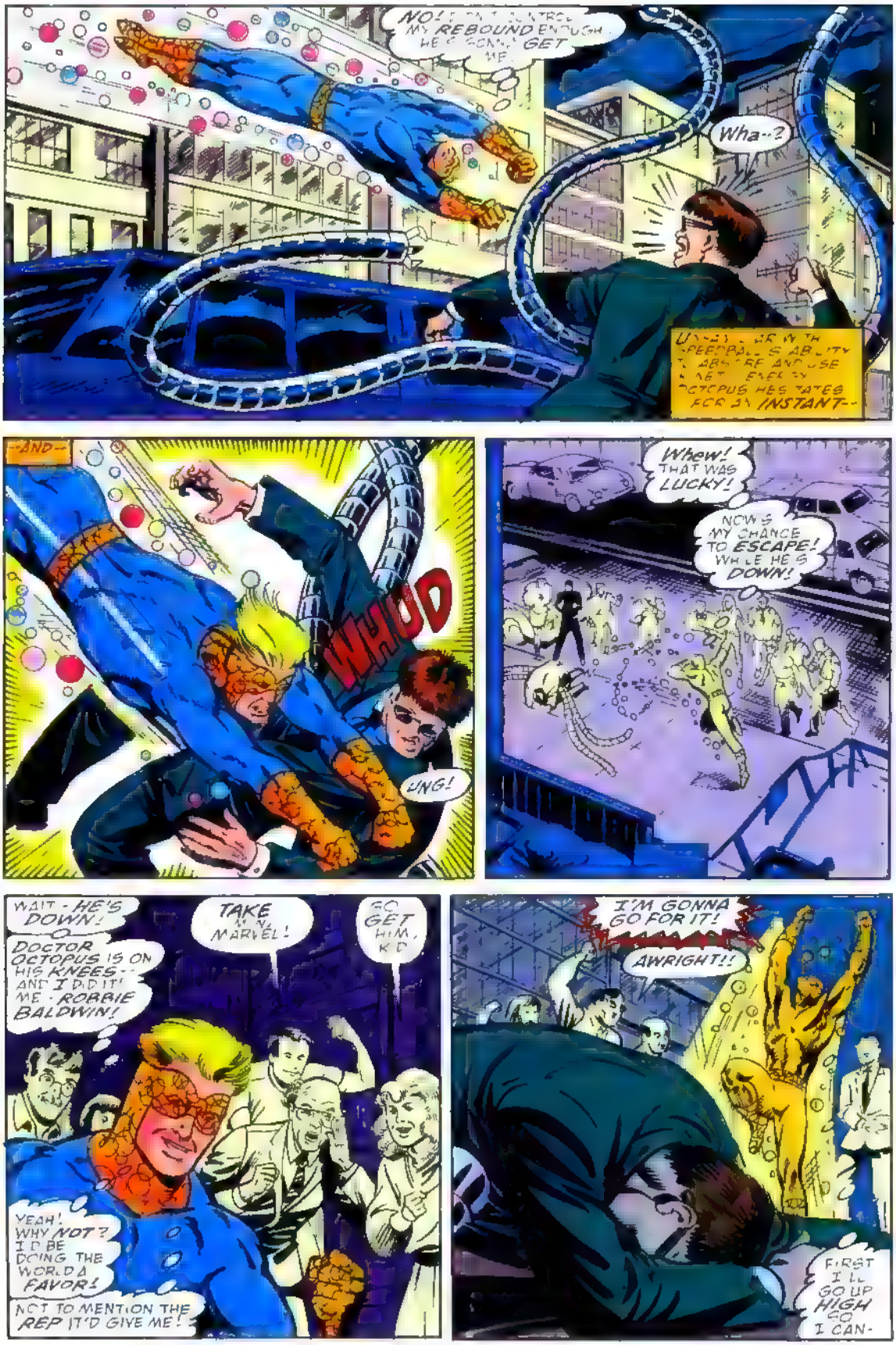

PARTNERS?
PARTNERS.
IN AN ACT OF GOOD FAITH...

...I AM GOING TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE COVER YOU NEED TO LEAVE WITH THE GIRL.
I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE WITHOUT YA
WE CANNOT RUN AND FIGHT AT THE SAME TIME.
YOU STAND THE BEST CHANCE OF SAVING HER...
...OF SAVING THE ENTIRE WORLD.
I'LL COME BACK FOR YA, BUB--
I AM NOT IMPORTANT HERE... JUST KEEP THE PANACEA DRUG FROM BEING UNLEASHED UPON AN UNSUSPECTING POPULACE.
LOGAN AIN'T THE TYPE O' GUY THAT RUNS FROM HIS PROBLEMS.
I WAS COUNTIN' ON HIM NOT BEIN' REAL EAGER TO SLICE AND DICE HIS WAY THROUGH AN ARMY O' OTHERWISE INNOCENT SHIELD OPS.
STILL, I CONFESS TO FINDIN' IT AMAZIN', HIS ATTACHMENT TO THE LYNX.
ALMOST LIKE SAVIN' HER FROM UNOFFICIAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTS--
--WOULD BE SORT O' LIKE SAVING HIMSELF.

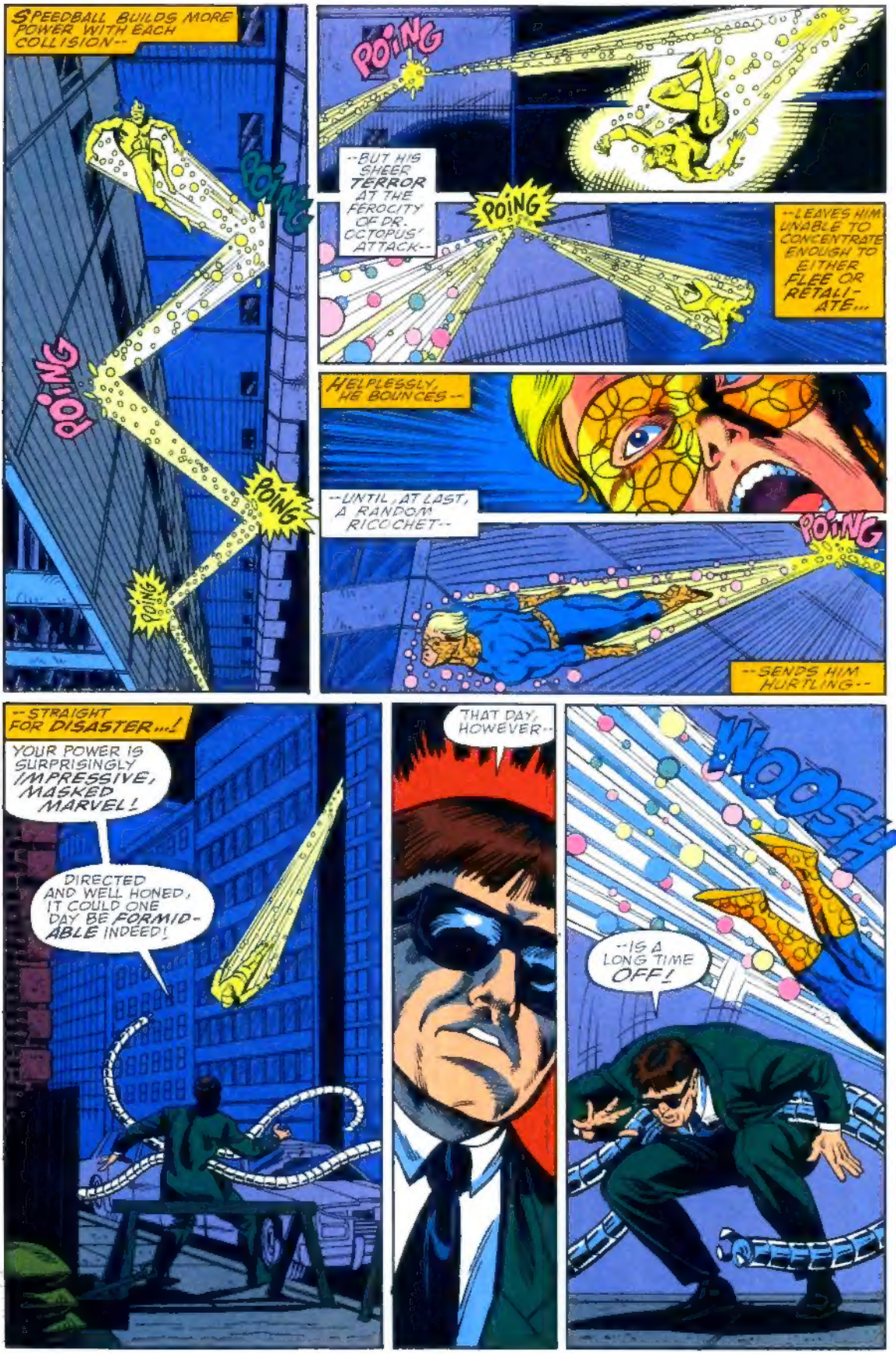
I TAKE IT BY YOUR REACTION, NICHOLAS-- YOU WERE EXPECTING THIS?
'TASH', IF I HAVE ANY SUPER-POWERS AT ALL, IT WOULD BE THAT I EXPECT EVERYTHIN'.
ALL THE TIME.
THEN YOU REALIZE THAT ACCORDING TO YOUR SENSORS-
--WOLVERINE JUST DISABLED THE QUINJET'S TRACKING BEACON.
NATURALLY THAT'S WHY I HAD A BACK-UP INSTALLED.
IT WOULD SEEM HE SUSPECTED AS MUCH. THE SENSORS INDICATE HE JUST DISABLED THE BACK-UP BEACON.
I KNEW HE'D FIND IT.
NOT A PROBLEM, WIDOW.
I DID
REALLY.
IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE THAT WOLVERINE IS NEVER ANY-WHERE FER VERY LONG--
--BEFORE EVERYTHING STARTS BLOWIN' UP.
HONEST.
WE'LL FIND THEM, AND BEFORE THEY KNOW IT-- THEY'LL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LYNX...
... AND UNLESS WE PREVENT IT, THE END O' THE WORLD!

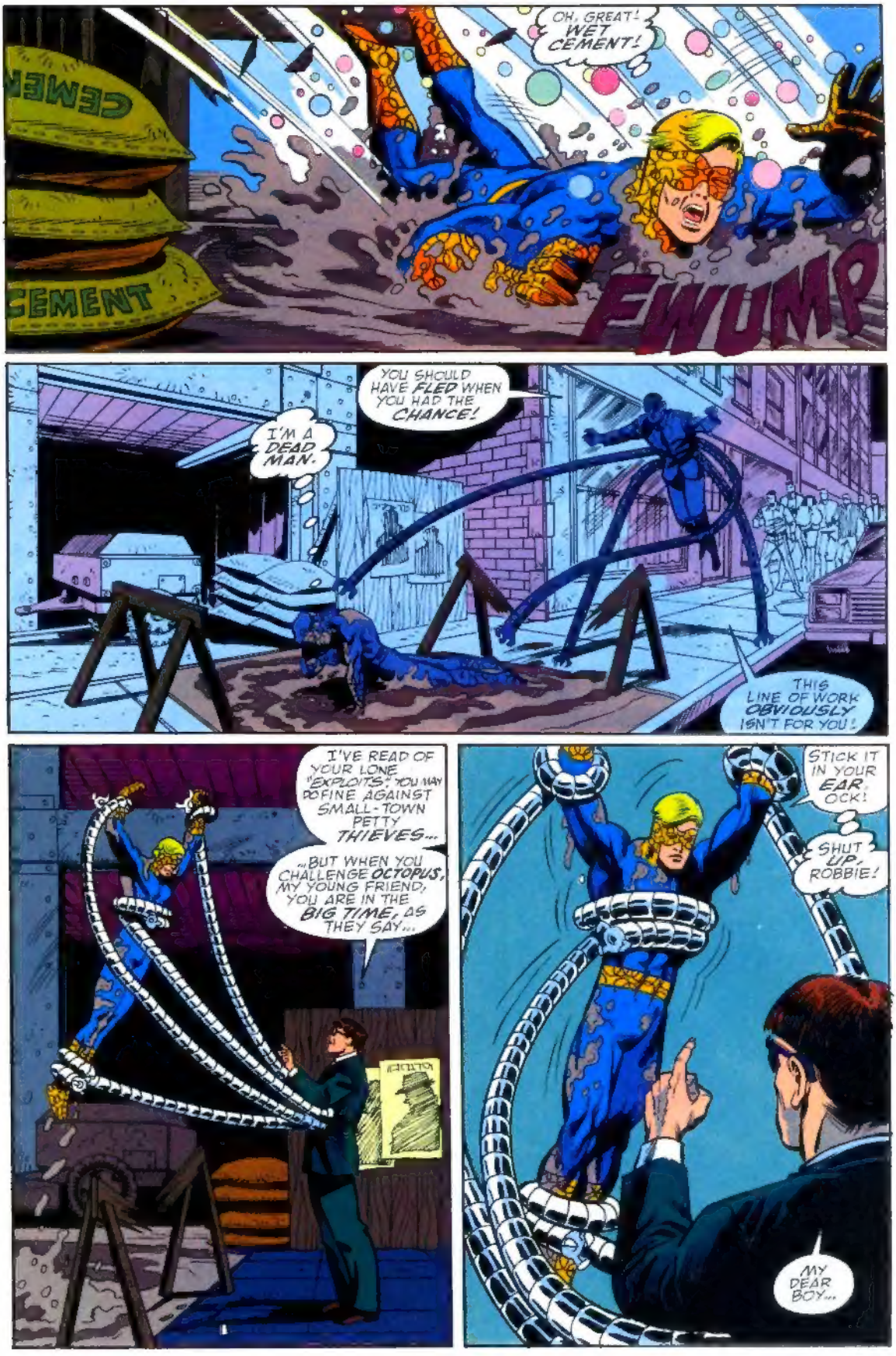
CHICAGO. ELEVEN P.M. ROBBIE BALDWIN IS A TOURIST IN A HURRY!
OH, NO! HERE COMES MY BUS! AND THE STOP IS THREE BLOCKS AWAY!
IF I MISS IT IT'LL TAKE ME AN HOUR TO WALK BACK TO MY FOLKS' HOTEL!
GOT TO POUR IT ON!
THEN, MS CARLYLE, I CAN EXPECT SHIPMENT OF THE WEAPONS BY MONDAY?
YOU HAVE MY WORD, DOCTOR
EXCELLENT. IF THEIR QUALITY IS EQUAL TO THAT OF THE EXQUISITE MEAL WE'VE JUST HAD--
ROMITA
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE NEW WARRIORS #1 TK
SPEEDBALL IN The BIG TIME

..THEN I'M SURE--
DR OCTAVIUS!
:UNFF!:
OH, NO!
WOMM
ITAL
GROING
NO! THE IMPACT WITH THOSE TWO--
--TRIGGERED THE SPEEDBALL EFFECT!
CAN THERE BE NO PEACE?!
MUST DOCTOR OCTOPUS ALWAYS BE PURSUED BY EVERY NEW SO-CALLED "HERO" OUT TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF?
WAKK
ROM
BWOING
NEVER FOUGHT A VILLAIN OF HIS CALIBER ALONE! I'M NOT READY FOR IT!
I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE! BUT HE'D NEVER BELIEVE THAT!
MAYBE I CAN ESCAPE BEFORE HE REALLY HURTS ME!


NO! MY REBOUND ENOUGH. GET ME.
Wha--?
OCTOPUS HESITATES FOR AN INSTANT--
--AND--
WHUD
UNG!
Whew! THAT WAS LUCKY!
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE! WHILE HE'S DOWN!
WAIT - HE'S DOWN!
DOCTOR OCTOPUS IS ON HIS KNEES-- AND I DID IT! ME - ROBBIE BALDWIN!
TAKE MARVEL!
GET HIM, KID
YEAH! WHY NOT? I'D BE DOING THE WORLD A FAVOR!
NOT TO MENTION THE REP IT'D GIVE ME!
I'M GONNA GO FOR IT!
AWRIGHT!!
FIRST I'LL GO UP HIGH SO I CAN-

BYONG!
EEEYOWW!
-LED YOU STRAIGHT INTO MY TRAP!
FOOL! I WAS SLIGHTLY STUNNED FOR A SECOND! BUT THEN I MERELY STAYED IN POSITION
UNT- YOUR OWN ARRO-GANCE--


SPEEDBALL BUILDS MORE POWER WITH EACH COLLISION--
POING
POING
POING
POING
POING
--BUT HIS SHEER TERROR AT THE FEROCITY OF DR. OCTOPUS' ATTACK--
POING
--LEAVES HIM UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE ENOUGH TO EITHER FLEE OR RETALI-ATE...
HELPLESSLY, HE BOUNCES--
--UNTIL, AT LAST, A RANDOM RICOCHET--
POING
--SENDS HIM HURTLING--
--STRAIGHT FOR DISASTER...!
YOUR POWER IS SURPRISINGLY IMPRESSIVE, MASKED MARVEL!
DIRECTED AND WELL HONED, IT COULD ONE DAY BE FORMID-ABLE INDEED!
THAT DAY, HOWEVER--
WOOSH
--IS A LONG TIME OFF!


OH, GREAT! WET CEMENT!
FWUMP
CEMENT
YOU SHOULD HAVE FLED WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
I'M A DEAD MAN.
THIS LINE OF WORK OBVIOUSLY ISN'T FOR YOU!
I'VE READ OF YOUR LONE "EXPLOITS." YOU MAY PREVAIL AGAINST SMALL-TOWN PETTY THIEVES...
...BUT WHEN YOU CHALLENGE OCTOPUS, MY YOUNG FRIEND, YOU ARE IN THE BIG TIME, AS THEY SAY...
STICK IT IN YOUR EAR, OCK!
SHUT UP, ROBBIE!
MY DEAR BOY...

YOU TRULY DESERVE TO DIE FOR YOUR INSOLENCE IN ATTACKING ME. AND YOU WILL. MY ONLY CONFLICT IS--
--SHOULD I SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU--
OOWW!
--OR--
--PULL YOU APART LIKE A--
DR. OCTAVIUS!
YES, MS. CARLYLE--?
WE HAVE BUSINESS TO CONDUCT! KILL TEENAGED FOOLS ON YOUR OWN TIME!
ACCESSORY TO MURDER IS A BORE I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR.
ALL RIGHT. AS A COURTESY TO YOU, MS. CARLYLE.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR!
:Uhhnn:

NOW, WE'D BEST BE GOING.
Uhhhh...
YOU'VE GOTTEN OFF THE HOOK TONIGHT, "MARVEL..."
...DO NOT INCONVENIENCE ME AGAIN!
PLEASE HURRY, DOCTOR. I HEAR SIRENS.
OF COURSE, MS. CARLYLE.
I BLEW IT!
YOU OKAY, KID?
YEAH... FINE...
I HURT IN PLACES I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD!
GOT TO GET OUT OF SIGHT... BEFORE THE CHANGE BACK TO ROBBIE BEGINS...
SO THAT'S WHAT BATTLING A TOP-RATED SUPER-VILLAIN ALONE IS LIKE, HUH?
I WAS LUCKY TO GET AWAY ALIVE!
HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO FACE A GUY LIKE THAT AGAIN...
THE END... FOR NOW!